

DEFINITIONS

ARTIFICIAL FLY: Any fly made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feather, fiber, or plastic by the method known as fly tying. Bait of any kind may not be used with artificial flies when fishing artificial flies and lures-only waters.

ARTIFICIAL LURE: Any device made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feather, fiber, or plastic with hook or hooks attached. Bait of any kind may not be used with artificial lures when fishing artificial flies and lures-only waters.

BAG LIMIT: The maximum number of fish that may be lawfully harvested by any one person in one day. The term “bag limit” shall be construed to be an individual, independent effort and shall not be interpreted in any manner as to allow an individual to take more fish than their “bag limit” and including them in filling the “bag limit” of another. The bag and possession limits are equal, except where listed in region exceptions and for salmon and steelhead.

BAIT: Organic substances, other than rubber, wood, feather, fiber, or plastic, attached to a hook to attract fish. Bait includes insects, insect larvae, worms, dead fish, fish parts, any other animal or vegetable matter, or scented synthetic materials. (Live fish are prohibited as bait in Idaho.) See definition of NO BAIT . . . , see also “Use of Bait,” page 11.

BARBLESS HOOK: A fish hook without barbs or on which barbs have been bent completely closed.

CATCH-AND-RELEASE: Effort, by permitted methods, to catch or attempt to catch a fish or species of fish is lawful, with the restriction that any fish or species of fish so caught must be released immediately, unharmed, back to the water. NOTE: Species of fish not specifically listed as catch-and-release may be harvested under their appropriate limits.

CONFLUENCE OF A STREAM OR RIVER: The point where two rivers or streams come together.

ELECTRIC MOTORS ONLY: When fishing waters listed “electric motors only,” gas (internal combustion) motors may be attached to the boat; but use of the gas motor is prohibited.

FISHING: Any effort made to take, kill, injure, capture, or catch any fish, crayfish, or bullfrog.

FLOAT TUBE: A floating device which suspends a single occupant, from the seat down, in the water, and is not propelled by oars, paddles or motors.

FLY FISHING: Fishing with a fly rod, fly reel, fly line, and artificial flies.

GAME FISH: Brook, brown, bull, cutthroat, golden, lake (Mackinaw), rainbow (including steelhead), splake and sunapee trout; trout hybrids; Chinook, coho, Atlantic and kokanee (blueback) salmon; grayling; whitefish; cisco; crappie; perch; bass; catfish; bullhead; sunfish; sturgeon; northern pike; tiger muskie; walleye and sauger; and burbot (ling). Bullfrogs and crayfish are also defined as game fish.

HARVEST: Reduce a fish to possession.

HOOK: A bent wire device, for the catching of fish, to which one, two, or three points may be attached to a single shank. Up to five (5) hooks per line may be used, except where specifically prohibited.

HYBRID: The offspring of two different species of fish. Hybrid in this rule book refers to crosses between cutthroat and rainbow trout. Cutthroat/rainbow trout hybrids display variable color and markings, representing a range of shared characteristics from rainbow and cutthroat trout. All hybrids show spotting patterns similar to rainbow trout with spots more evenly distributed from head to tail and above and below the lateral line. See page 16.

ICE FISHING: Fishing through an opening broken or cut through the ice.

LENGTH: The length between the tip of the nose or jaw and the tip of the tail fin.

MOTOR: Includes electric and internal combustion motors. See Electric Motors Only.

MOUTH OF RIVER OR STREAM: The place where a river or stream enters a larger body of water.

NO BAIT: Requires the use of artificial flies or lures, with one barbless hook ONLY per fly or lure. Up to five separate flies or lures per line may be used, except where specifically prohibited.

NO MOTORS: Fishing from a boat with a motor attached is prohibited.

NON-GAME FISH: Any fish not specifically defined as a “game fish” above.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Maximum number of fish that may be lawfully in possession of any person. “Possession limit” shall apply to fish while in the field or being transported to the final place of consumption or storage. All fish that are hooked, landed and not immediately released shall be counted in the possession limit of the person hooking the fish. The bag and possession limits are equal, except where listed in region exceptions and for salmon and steelhead.

RESERVOIR: The flat water level existing at any time within a reservoir basin. Unless noted otherwise, a stream flowing through the drawn down portion of a reservoir is not considered part of the reservoir.

SEASON LIMIT: The maximum number of fish that may be lawfully taken in any declared season.

SNAGGING: It is unlawful to take or attempt to take any game fish by snagging. Snagging shall mean the taking or attempting to take a fish by use of a hook or lure in any manner or method other than enticing or attracting a fish to strike with, and become hooked in, its mouth or jaw. Game fish which are hooked other than in the mouth or jaw must be released immediately.

STANDARD FISHING GEAR: Includes the use of a hook and line to catch fish. May also include the use of a rod and reel.

STEELHEAD: Rainbow trout longer than 20 inches in length in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage (excluding lakes and the Lemhi and the Pahsimeroi rivers), and the Clearwater River drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam, and lakes). Rainbow trout longer than 20 inches in length with a clipped adipose fin (as evidenced by a healed scar) are defined as steelhead in the Snake River from Hells Canyon Dam upstream to Oxbow Dam, and in the Boise River from its mouth upstream to Barber Dam, and in the Payette River from its mouth upstream to Black Canyon Dam during steelhead seasons.

TRIBUTARY: A stream flowing into a larger stream or lake.

UNATTENDED LINE: A line not under the immediate surveillance of the angler.

UNPROTECTED NONGAME FISH: All fish species other than game fish and protected nongame fish. See game fish page 10.

The following are clarifications according to statute or Commission rules. Please consult the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act for exact wording and complete listing:

Archery and Spear Fishing: Fishing with a bow and arrow, crossbow, spear or mechanical device, excluding firearms, is permitted only in the taking of bullfrogs and unprotected nongame fish, and only in those waters during the season set for the taking of game fish.

Bait Restricted: It is unlawful to fish with bait in waters designated as artificial flies and lures only, fly fishing only, or no bait.

Fishing Gear: It is unlawful to fish in any waters of Idaho with more than one handline or pole with a line attached; or with two poles or lines without a two-pole validation; or with more than five poles or lines while ice fishing; or by archery, spearfishing, snagging, hands, and netting except as permitted. Not more than five hooks may be attached per line. The line or lines must be attended by the person fishing. See two-pole validation below.

Fishing Shelters: Any enclosure or shelter which is left unattended overnight on the ice of any water statewide shall have the owners' name, telephone number, and current address legibly marked on two opposing sides of the enclosure or shelter.

Gaff Hook: It is unlawful to land fish of any species with a gaff hook except through a hole cut or broken in the ice in waters which have no length restrictions or harvest closures for that species.

Molesting Fish: It is unlawful to molest any fish by shooting at it with a firearm or pellet gun, striking at it with a club, hands, rocks, or other objects, building obstructions for catching fish, or chasing fish up or downstream in any manner.

Snagging: It is unlawful to snag game fish, unless otherwise stated by Commission rules/exceptions. Snagging of unprotected nongame fish species is permitted.

Trapping and Seining Minnows or Crayfish: It is lawful to take unprotected nongame fish, crayfish, and yellow perch with

a minnow net, seine, or up to five (5) traps, provided the seine or net does not exceed ten (10) feet in length or width, and the minnow or crayfish trap does not exceed two (2) feet in length, width or height. If the trap is of irregular dimension, but its volume does not exceed the volume of an eight (8) cubic foot trap, it is also lawful to use. All traps must have a tag attached bearing the owner's name and address. All fish so taken must immediately be killed. Crayfish may be kept alive to be used as bait ONLY on the water where captured. Minnows and crayfish may only be taken during the season set for the taking of game fish in those waters.

Two-Pole Validation: A person who has a valid resident or nonresident fishing license may purchase a two-pole validation. This validation authorizes the license holder to use two poles or rods at the same time on waters and during seasons specified by Commission Rule. Valid for all fish including salmon and steelhead.

Use of Bait: It is unlawful to use live fish, leeches, frogs, salamanders, waterdogs or shrimp as bait, except that live crayfish may be used if caught on the body of water being fished.

Use of Hands: It is lawful to take bullfrogs and crayfish with the hands.

IT IS UNLAWFUL

- No person shall transport for another or accept as a gift any game fish unless a proxy statement signed by the taker accompanies the fish, showing the number and kinds, the date taken, the taker's name, address, and fishing license number. See page 41 for the proxy form. No person may claim ownership of more fish than allowed by the possession limit.
- To fish in any water statewide having special limits while having fish in possession in excess of the special limits.
- To fish through a hole cut or broken in the ice that is larger than 10 inches in diameter EXCEPT as listed under Regional Exceptions.
- To refuse to produce a license or fish for inspection upon request of a conservation officer.
- For all hunters, fishermen, and trappers, with or without game/fish to fail to stop and report at any check station established to inspect licenses and fish and game.
- To put any substance not attached to a hook into the water for the purpose of attracting fish (chumming).
- To waste game fish.
- To have in the field or in transit any trout, char, salmon (coho, kokanee, Chinook), steelhead, grayling, tiger muskie, or bass from which the head or tail has been removed.
- To use chemicals, poisons, electric current, or explosives in attempting to catch or destroy fish.
- To sell or buy fish or parts of fish taken from Idaho waters EXCEPT as provided by Idaho Code.
- To transport fish harvested from a private pond without written permission from the owner.

- To ship any fish by commercial carrier unless the outside of the package is marked showing the number and kinds of fish, and the name, address and fishing license number of the person who caught the fish.
- To take fish on or from any state or federal fish hatchery property in Idaho, EXCEPT as posted.
- To destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.
- To leave a fishing line unattended.

- To release or allow the release of any species of live fish (including crayfish), or fish eggs, in the state of Idaho without a permit from the Director of IDFG, EXCEPT no permission is required when fish or crayfish are being released at the same time and place where caught (see page 26).

If you suspect an illegal fish release has occurred or may occur, report it to the nearest IDFG representative, or call the CAP toll-free number 1-800-632-5999. Callers do not have to reveal their names. A reward may be paid if an arrest is made or a citation is issued to the suspected violator.

- To have a fish-bearing pond for their own personal use without a private pond permit (available from IDFG regional offices, see page 3 for addresses and phone numbers).
- To import into the state any live aquatic bait (minnows, leeches, salamanders, waterdogs, etc.) without a permit from the director of IDFG.
- To possess, transport or cause to be transported within the state of Idaho any live fish or fish eggs without having first obtained a permit from the Director of IDFG.

However, no permit is required to:

- Keep game fish, that can legally be reduced to possession, alive and in possession in a live well, net or on a stringer while at the body of water from which they were taken. However, anadromous salmon and steelhead must either be immediately killed or released.
- Possess ornamental or tropical aquarium fish of varieties commonly accepted for interstate shipment.
- Transport fish between licensed commercial fish facilities.

FISH SALVAGE

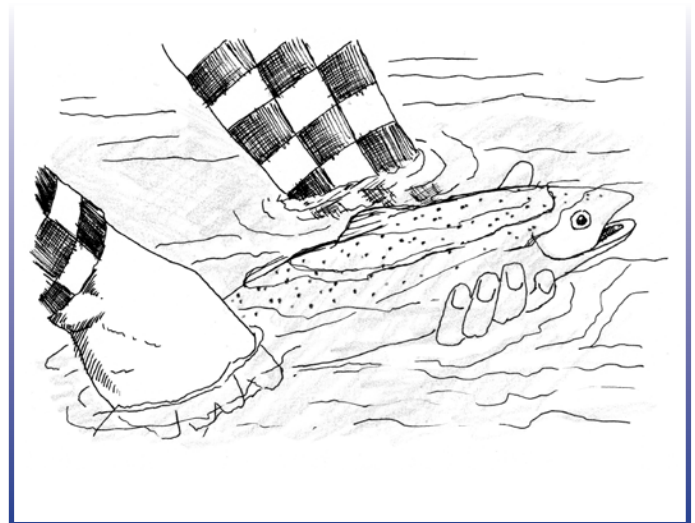
Fish salvage may be authorized when fish populations are threatened by water shortages or other causes. No salvage of fish from public waters will be allowed without specific Commission order or without authorization from the Director or the Regional Supervisor. In a salvage season, fish may be taken by snagging, spearing, archery, dipnetting, seining, or by hand. Regional authorization allows public fish salvage without regard to usual possession limits. Use of toxic chemicals, explosives, firearms, or electric current is prohibited. A valid fishing license is required. Anglers are reminded that access along canal banks and salvage fishing in most canals and ditches requires prior permission from irrigation companies.

RELEASING FISH

Releasing fish is a good way to increase your enjoyment and prolong your fishing. Many miles of rivers and streams in Idaho have CATCH-AND-RELEASE rules. Other bodies of water have rules which require the release of certain sizes of fish or have reduced bag limits. These rules have been very successful in providing better fishing for larger trout and bass.

All anglers can increase fish survival by releasing fish properly through the following procedures:

- Do not handle fish with dry hands.
- Do not squeeze the fish.
- Do not touch the gills or hold fish by gill covers.
- Leave the fish in the water while removing the hook; needlenose pliers or forceps are helpful.
- If the hook cannot be easily removed, cut the leader. The hook will rust out rapidly.
- If the fish is exhausted, hold it in a swimming position in the water and move it back and forth gently until you release it.
- Avoid excessive and unnecessary handling of the fish, and avoid removing fish from water.
- Avoid laying fish on a hard surface.



Anglers — Can You Identify Bull Trout?



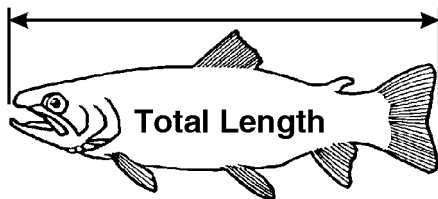
If you catch a bull trout,
IT MUST BE RELEASED immediately,
 unharmed, back into the water.
"If you don't know, let it go!"

REASONS FOR SEASON EXCEPTIONS

Listed under “Region Exceptions” you will see a number of waters with season dates different from the general statewide stream and lake seasons. While they add complexity to the rules, they are designed to protect fish populations during vulnerable periods. The protection is needed to maintain or restore fish populations and to provide a diversity of fishing opportunities. Some of the special seasons listed under Region Exceptions and their purpose are:

- **July 1 Stream Opener:** Late opening to protect cutthroat trout which spawn later than rainbow trout.
- **July 1 Opener for Bass:** Designed to protect large bass during the vulnerable spring period and to reduce the overall annual harvest to provide a “quality” size structure — normally accompanied by other regulations.
- **August 31 Stream Closure:** To protect spawning kokanee, bull trout and young cutthroat and Kamloops rainbow trout in nursery tributaries moving to large lakes during low flow conditions.
- **CLOSED TO FISHING:** A last resort restriction in important spawning and nursery streams for species with critically low populations.

REASONS FOR SIZE AND BAG LIMITS



The length of species with special size limits shall be determined by measuring the distance between the tip of the nose or jaw and the tip of the tail fin. Size and bag limits are an important means of increasing the overall size of fish in a lake or stream or of limiting harvest so enough survive to spawn. Size and bag limit restrictions don't work overnight though. It may take several years to see improvement in fish populations.

Managing to provide different types of fishing opportunities calls for different combinations of size and bag limits. Some of those are:

- **Family Fishing Waters:** Simplified fishing rules with general bag limits, no length limits, and no special gear or bait restrictions. Apply to waters which are well suited to new anglers, families and kids.
- **General Management:** Uncomplicated fishing with general bag limits, no gear or bait restrictions, no size limits on trout, and a 12-inch minimum size limit on bass. Many of these waters are stocked with harvestable-sized hatchery trout.
- **Wild Trout:** A reduced bag limit of 2 trout is used to de-emphasize harvest and maintain wild trout populations. No size limits, gear, or bait restrictions.

- **Quality Management:** Used where the goal is to catch more and larger fish by giving up some harvest opportunity. A bag limit of 2 fish (trout or bass) and various size limits such as a 14- or 16-inch minimum or 12- to 16-inch protected range. May include gear or bait restrictions to reduce the mortality of released fish.
- **Trophy Management:** Used where the goal is to catch large trophy fish but not necessarily harvest any. May be catch-and-release or a bag limit of 2 fish (for both trout and bass) combined with a 20-inch minimum size. May include gear or bait restrictions.
- **Special Cutthroat Trout Rules:** Because the cutthroat trout, our state fish, is so easily overfished, various special rules are imposed for them. Many waters throughout the state have catch-and-release, or restrictive bag or length limits, or other rules to protect cutthroat trout.

PUBLIC USE OF FISH AND GAME LANDS AND ACCESS AREAS

Except as specifically approved by the Director as an exception or for administrative purposes, the following are some activities which are PROHIBITED on all lands, waters, and roads under control or administration of IDFG:

- To camp or park a vehicle and/or trailer for more than ten consecutive days in any thirty-day period in any one designated area (or as otherwise posted).
- To camp or park a vehicle and/or a trailer in any area posted against such use or to leave unattended a camp, vehicle, and/or trailer for more than forty-eight hours.
- To operate any motorized vehicles, including snowmachines, except on established roads. Operation of vehicles on established roads is prohibited when posted against such use.
- To start a fire without taking necessary measures to prevent its spreading or to leave a fire unattended. All fires are prohibited in areas posted against their use.
- To cut, dig, or remove any crops, trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, logs, or fuel wood.

Other special rules relating to uses of and activities on IDFG Lands are detailed in a brochure titled “Public Use of Department Lands and Access Areas,” which is available at IDFG offices.